



Crown Cemeteries Advisory Committee

Meeting 02-10

Summary of proceedings

The second meeting of the Crown Cemeteries Advisory Committee (CCAC) was held on Monday 10th May 2010 in the Rolleston Room in the LPMA Building, Queens Square, Sydney.

The meeting was chaired by the CCAC Chairperson, Graham Harding.

In attendance were:

- David Knoll
- Donna Bruce
- Neil Shaw
- Harold Sharp
- David Blake
- Richard d'Apice
- Peter Owens
- John Morrison
- Siobhan Lavelle
- George Gibbons
- Duncan Maclennan
- Graham Harding
- Pierre du Parte
- Maureen Rowatt

The following observers were also in attendance: Michael McMahon, John Desmond and Warwick Hansen.

Executive Officer Stephen Fenn and Acting Secretary Julie Leach from the LPMA also attended the meeting

Apologies were received from Stepan Kerkyasharian, Jacqueline Watts and Ken Chapman.

The Minutes of Meeting 01-10 were accepted, as were the Committee's Charter and Standing Orders. It was noted that this latter document is to be reviewed at least annually. The Committee resolved to public the Charter and Standing Orders on the LPMA website.

The Committee then proceeded to discuss a paper prepared by the Right of Burial Subcommittee on a common law definition of a right of burial. The definition was amended slightly and then accepted by the Committee. The Committee requested that the definition should be circulated to cemetery managers for their information.

The Executive Officer provided a response on the applicability of the *Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2006* to Local Government managed cemeteries. The Executive Officer noted that the proposed amendments to the 2006 By-law would extend its provisions to any Crown land cemetery managed by a Reserve Trust Board. Whilst it would be preferable for all public cemeteries to be managed under one piece of legislation, local Councils had the right to decide whether or not they managed their cemeteries under the *Crown Lands Act 1989* or the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Executive Officer further noted that more and more local Councils are considering becoming Reserve Trust Managers.

The issue of a single Cemeteries Act in NSW was subsequently raised. Whilst there may be some merit in exploring the possible benefits of a single piece of legislation governing the management of all cemeteries in NSW, this is a matter currently beyond the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

The Committee suspended ordinary business to allow Mr John Brockhoff from the Department of Planning to address the meeting regarding future burial space and the Discussion Paper on the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy. The CCAC reiterated the need for the Department of Planning to work with the LPMA and local Councils in planning for new cemetery space throughout the growth regions of Sydney. The CCAC resolved to seek a meeting with senior Planning officials to progress a cooperative and coordinated approach to planning for new cemetery space in Sydney. The Committee believed that this proactive, cooperative approach to cemetery planning should be considered in other regions outside Sydney facing similar demographic pressures.

The Executive Officer discussed to draft Request for Fee Proposal (RFP) to engage consultants to undertake further consultation on the option to allow limited and renewable tenure on burial rights granted by Crown Cemetery Reserve Trusts. With a number of minor amendments, the Committee accepted the RFP and instructed the Executive Officer to issue the document to appropriate consultants for their consideration. It was considered that a preferred consultant should be engaged by early July 2010, with a final report to be received by the CCAC no later than the end of September 2010.

The next meeting of the CCAC will be held in the Rolleston Room, LPMA building, on Tuesday 27 July, commencing 2pm.

Stephen Fenn
Executive Officer